

January 14, 2014

Via Electronic Mail: [DOGGRRegulations@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:DOGGRRegulations@conservation.ca.gov)

Governor Jerry Brown  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the 50 undersigned organizations representing more than 2 million Californians, we are writing to request that you use your executive authority to place an immediate moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, and other well stimulation activities. In November you stated on KQED's Forum program that we should "let the science work" and that "[they] can't start [fracking] until California's rigorous study is conducted." We couldn't agree more, but unfortunately, fracking, acidizing and other forms of well stimulation are happening in California today.

We appreciate your leadership in combatting climate change and moving California to a clean energy future. Your support for AB 32 and California's other clean air and clean energy policies and programs are critically important as the state continues its implementation of these landmark laws. But ramping up dirty fossil fuel production through emerging drilling and well stimulation methods is at odds with California's clean energy, climate, water and air quality goals. Expanding oil drilling is not a sustainable path for California or for our planet.

An increasing body of evidence demonstrates that there are many reasons to be concerned about the effects of fracking and other well stimulation activities. Fracking involves injecting underground a cocktail of chemicals that can include toxics like hydrofluoric acid, formaldehyde and benzene, often through or adjacent to groundwater used for drinking and irrigation. Recently, offshore fracking has been identified in both state and federal waters, and unfortunately, some chemicals were discharged directly into the ocean. Hydraulic fracturing requires significant water resources and any major ramping up of these operations creates another competing demand for California's precious water supplies. These processes produce large quantities of toxic wastewater that requires management and disposal. Fracking has been linked to induced earthquakes, a particular concern for California. Emissions from oil and gas facilities include toxic air contaminants, smog-forming pollutants and greenhouse gases. In addition, studies link fracking to adverse impacts on human health and damage to private property.

Despite these risks, fracking enjoys dangerous exemptions from critical federal environmental laws, including the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. No drilling practices, including fracking, should be exempted from our landmark federal environmental laws.

California has been at the forefront of environmental protection in many areas, but on fracking the state is still behind. It's time for us to catch up to the other states that have acted to protect public health and the environment on this critical issue. New York's Governor issued an

executive order halting fracking in order to give state regulators time to fully evaluate the risks to public health and the environment, in order to determine how to protect against them. The states of Vermont, Maryland and North Carolina, and local governments in several states, have imposed moratoria or banned fracking entirely.

A majority of Californians agree that a moratorium on fracking is needed now. A poll by the University of Southern California and the Los Angeles Times showed that 58 percent of California voters want a moratorium on fracking, at least until an independent commission has studied fracking's environmental impacts. The Public Policy Institute of California's statewide study from September, 2013 found that 53 percent of Californians oppose increased use of fracking.

The combination of advanced drilling and well stimulation techniques has made it possible to produce oil and gas from unconventional formations that were previously inaccessible. Policies that open up California to expanded fossil fuel investments – in contrast to clean energy – take us in the wrong direction on climate change by locking us into decades of carbon-intensive resources.

Governor Brown, you have a strong clean energy record and you have the authority to make sure that Californians' safety and public health come first. You can issue an executive order directing the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to carry out its statutory duty to prevent oil and gas operations from harming human health, property, and natural resources.<sup>1</sup> Continued fracking leaves the health of Californians and our precious natural resources unprotected. We urge you to impose an immediate moratorium on fracking, acidizing and other forms of well stimulation.

Sincerely,

350.org

Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Azul

Baldwin Hills Oil Watch

California Coastal Coalition

California Coastal Protection Network

California League of Conservation Voters

Camp Nast Associates LLC

Center for Biological Diversity

Citizen Planning of South Monterey County

Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community

Clean Water Action

Climate Hawks Vote

Communications Workers of America, District 9, AFL - CIO

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<sup>1</sup> See Public Resources Code section 3106(a).

Community Health Councils  
CREDO  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Earth Law Center  
Earthworks  
Environment California  
Environmental Defense Center  
Environmental Working Group  
Forests Forever  
Fresnans Against Fracking  
Heal the Bay  
iMatter Campaign  
Kids vs. Global Warming  
Los Angeles Waterkeeper  
Los Padres ForestWatch  
Medicine Lake Citizens for Quality Environment  
MoveOn.org Civic Action  
Mujeres de la Tierra  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Oil Change International  
Planning and Conservation League  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Progressive Democrats of the Santa Monica Mountains  
Protect Salinas Valley  
San Benito Rising  
SaveWithSunlight, Inc.  
Seventh Generation Advisors  
Sierra Club California  
SLO Clean Water Action  
South Monterey County Citizen Planning Alliance  
Surfrider Foundation  
The City Project  
Wholly H2O  
WILPF California Action  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, US Section  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, US Section, Earth Democracy Issue Group